June 17 – 23, 2021 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 24 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 136, No. 24

Sumpter Township Deputy Treasurer Toni Clark, the widow of recently deceased Treasurer James Clark, has demanded trustees appoint her to the office.

See page 4.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 24

Sam Caramagno, of GFL (Green For Life) trash pick-up, faced intensive questioning at the June 8 Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting.

See page 3.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 74, No. 24

The EnVision Center in Inkster, a facility is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), has officially reopened.

See page 2.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 210, No. 24

After a one-year hiatus, the 2021 Arts and Acts Festival, presented by the Northville Art House, will return to this weekend with three art fairs.

See page 6

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 21, No. 24

The return of live music to the community is nearly here with the return of the Michigan Philharmonic orchestra for a pair of outdoor summer performances.

See page 6.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 136, No. 24

Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff delivered his eighth and final State of the City Address last week, highlighting the accomplishments of his administration since 2013.

See page 2.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 24

The City of Wayne and the Wayne Parks and Trails Committee joined a large group of volunteers to help with the first of two Attwood Park clean-ups last week.

See page 5.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 24

Members of the Westland City Council last week unanimously approved the adoption of a $70 million balanced budget proposal for fiscal year 2021-22.

See page 5.

Planning commission denies plan for hotels

Plans for a Hilton Garden Inn and Residence Inn at the northwest corner of Lilley and Ford roads in Canton Township have been rejected by members of the planning commission.

The two hotels were proposed for a site behind a shopping center near at the intersection and would have provided 220 rooms between them. Members of the commission questioned the accuracy of the traffic studies and other information provided which was prepared using data prior to the shutdown last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioners commented that the studies and data were out of date and needed to be re-evaluated.

> *"Residents said that the influx of traffic with guests using the hotels would negatively impact their quality of life in the nearby subdivision.*

Several neighboring residents appeared at the meeting with objections to the plan. Several criticized the lack of information about the proposed hotel plan and said they only learned of the proposal through social media. Residents said that the influx of traffic with guests using the hotels would negatively impact their quality of life in the nearby subdivision.

Chris Abbo, one of the petitioners who appeared before the commission during the June 7 meeting, said that travel is increasing and "we are seeing demand (for hotel rooms) picking up." He and the other petitioners told the commission that they had spoken with hotel company managers who told them that the Canton Township site is a desirable location for the hotel development. He said the developers would start construction in 2022 and open the hotels in 2024, if approved. Bryan Amann, also speaking for the petitioners, said that the project has been under discussion since 2018 but was delayed due to the pandemic.

One resident said that there were already too many hotels in the area and that the proposed new buildings would alter the residential character of the neighborhood.

Commissioners unanimously voted to deny the proposed plan which could now go before the members of the township board of trustees for consideration.

Natural wonders

Northville Garden Walk features floral perfection

It's taken Dave and Pat Neil 31 years, but they finally have grass in their Northville back yard.

Of course, they also have a brick paver patio or two, a flagstone area, a stream trickling under a handmade blue bridge, a fireplace and grill along with two ponds connected by a waterfall and garden art. Lots and lots of carefully installed and lovingly tended garden art and greenery designed over the years to somewhat camouflage the absence of grass in the back yard of their subdivision home.

"When we first bought the house, there was not much grass because we had so many trees," Pat Neil said. The trees provided so much shade, grass simply would not grow in the space. The couple, who both love gardening, added the extensive hardscape features over the years along with numerous potted flowers and many other unique features, but still, they hoped for grass, which they both thought would add to the extensive artistry of their yard.

After many unsuccessful tries in the heavily-shaded garden, last year they brought in yards and yards of black topsoil, carefully spread it everywhere it would complement the extensive work already done in the yard, seeded it with a grass variety designed to grow in shade, and to everyone's surprise, it sprouted into a luxurious living carpet of green.

"My parents loved gardening and my dad kept telling us we would never have grass here because we have so many trees and so much shade," Neil said. "We were shocked because we thought it would never come in. But here it is."

In addition to the ponds and patios, along with the extensive plantings, paths and trees, the back yard also features two fairy gardens which have proven a real attraction for their eight grandchildren, one of whom added some specially painted rocks to one of the footpaths recently. The garden also features a great many unique birdhouses along with gazing balls and other unique garden art. Dave Neil took a welding class to help him fashion a huge bell with a gong that the couple"s grandchildren enjoy.

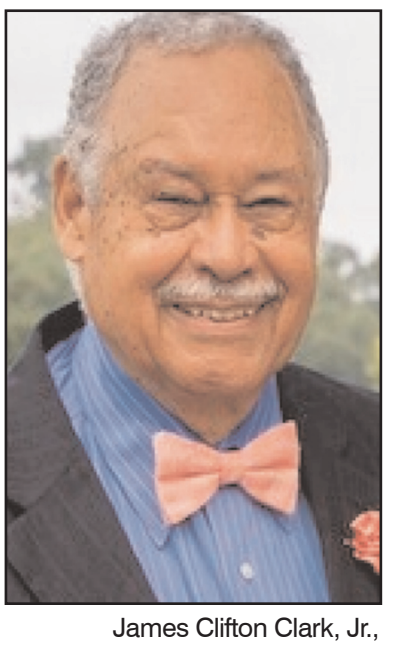
While Pat admits she may spend a bit more time in the yard than Dave, she said for her it is a "labor of love." She added that tending to the garden is great exercise, too, "and it so peaceful out there, listening to the birds. It's really a great stress reducer." She said both she and her husband can be found in the yard most afternoons tending to the various plants or working on new art or plant additions.

"Because of the trees, we are always in the shade, so it is always very comfortable," she said. "That makes it even more enjoyable." The couple also installed a cleverly adapted old door leading into the garden which is covered with family collectables, "and we have lots of other art," Neil said.

Their four adult children and their grandchildren enjoy the yard and the

See **Garden,** page 6

Death of Sumpter Township Treasurer is mourned



James Clifton Clark, Jr.,

Sumpter Township Treasurer James Clifton Clark, Jr., 78, died June 7 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital after complications from the COVID-19 virus.

Mr. Clark, a long-time Sumpter Township resident, was born Sept. 24, 1942 in Detroit, the oldest of 10 children of James and Marion (Copening) Clark. Mr. Clark held a master's degree in engineering from Wayne State University and retired from Ford Motor Co. as a Quality Manager after 44 years of service.

Mr. Clark was well-known throughout the community and served many years as the Sumpter Township Building Inspector and as a member of the Planning Commission. He also served on the township Zoning Board of Appeals and he, along with his father, wrote the first ordinance for Sumpter Township.

Mr. Clark built churches around Ohio and homes in Michigan, including the clubhouse at Holiday West Mobile Home Community.

Mr. Clark was in the first year of his term as Sumpter Township Treasurer. He is the fourth Sumpter Township official to die in office in the past six years.

Mr. Clark is survived by his wife of 29 years, Toni G. Clark; five children, Jim Clark of Ann Arbor, Loni Faler of Santa Monica, CA, Melissa Nicholson of Greenville, SC, and Lisa Eller and Alisa Watkins, both of Belleville; 12 grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews; his extended family members; professional colleagues and a multitude of friends.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home, in Belleville. A memorial service took place June12 at the Sumpter Seventh Day Advent Church in Sumpter.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

(See related story, page 4.)

Inkster - Romulus

Mayor presents final State of the City address

Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff delivered his eighth and final State of the City Address last week, highlighting the accomplishments of his administration since 2013 and the perseverance of the city during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Burcroff, first elected mayor in 2013, after serving on the Romulus City Council, is a lifelong resident of the city. A graduate of Romulus High School, he and his wife are the parents of three children.

In looking back at his tenure as mayor during his address last week, Burcroff focused on the accomplishments since 2014 when the city administration team, under his direction, began a visioning process prioritizing a culture of customer service, financial stability, public safety, economic development and community initiatives.

He reminded the audience that when he was elected in 2013, Romulus city parks were closed and no longer maintained and the recreation department was closed, providing no activities for community members.

Both the parks and the recreation department activities and services were returned during his administration, Burcroff said, with no additional tax burden on residents.

> *He said that the city now utilizes an effective team strategy focused on reducing expenditures with greater results.*

The Romulus city budget has been balanced every year from 2014 through 2021, he added, and currently has an increased fund balance and has managed a reduction in legacy costs along with $25 million in savings.

Burcroff said that since 2019, the city has saved $305,000 in health care costs and that all union contract agreements have been ratified between September 2020 and July 2021, an unprecedented accomplishment, he said, with the last two contracts ratified during the pandemic.

An Operational Sustainability and Community Enhancement Committee was also established to help reduce and mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic, he explained.

Burcroff said that Advanced Life Support transport was now available in the city and that the Romulus Fire Department Station #2 was now reopened. Using grant funds, new emergency response vehicles were purchased and six new firefighters were hired utilizing SAFER federal grant funding.

He added that first responder communication had been improved and that the 911 system in the city had been upgraded. First responders in Romulus are now part of a mental health partnership, providing more appropriate responses in calls for service.

The prestigious accreditation of the Romulus Police Department through the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) was awarded in 2019 and will conclude in summer of 2021.

The city departments have worked on succession planning, he said, and have practiced enhanced and collaborative enforcement.

Burcroff, who opted not to seek reelection this year, said that economic development in the city now utilized a fast track process and proudly noted that Romulus was awarded the ECitites 5 Star designation for the third consecutive year 2018, 2019 and 2020 based on economic development.

"According to the SEMCOG report for 2019 - Romulus had the most square footage (3.2 million) development in the region," Burcroff said.

He said that the city now utilizes an effective team strategy focused on reducing expenditures with greater results. During the pandemic, he said, the rate of residential development in 2020 was at $11,733,975 investment with 92 single family homes constructed and 342 upgrades to existing homes.

He said there was $34,015.988 invested in commercial development in 2020 in the city with the opening of 26 new businesses.

In addition, industrial development saw $85,818,732 in investment, primarily focused on the food and produce industry.

He said the city utilized National Incident Management System (NIMS) and established Emergency Operations Center (EOC)/Declared State of Emergency early on during the pandemic and put plans in place to protect employees, residents and provide outstanding customer service while observing safety protocols during the crisis.

In addition, he said that 81 blighted structures have been demolished in the city since 2013.

Burcroff was lauded with a letter of appreciation from American Progressive Association President Bronson Bell and video testimonials regarding the progress of the city under Burcroff's leadership were shared during the address. Romulus Fire Department Director of Fire Services and Emergency Management Chief Kevin Krause and Romulus Police Chief Robert Pfannes both spoke about the progress in the public safety departments during Burcroff's administration.

The mayor was also praised for his leadership and help by Chris Girdwood of the Detroit Region Aerotroplis Corp. and Jerry Frayer, who spoke both as a resident of the city and as the supervisor of Romulus Pubic Works.

Mayor LeRoy Burcroff

Housing commission celebrates reopening of EnVision

The EnVision Center in Inkster has been officially reopened to the public.

The Inkster facility, located at 4360 Hickory St. is a facility that serves as a centralized hub to provide individuals with resources and support needed to excel. Programs, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), are focused around four objectives, economic empowerment, educational advancement, health and wellness, and character and leadership. Currently, there are 100 EnVision Centers in the United States.

"One of the goals of the Inkster Housing Commission is to provide programming to help our residents become self-sufficient," stated Aaron Cooper, executive director of Inkster Housing. "We are excited to reopen the center, and grateful to HUD for their assistance in making it happen."

The Inkster Housing Redevelopment Commission was created in 1950 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Initially, the commission was a municipal department of the city but in 2004, it became an independent, self-sustaining, HUD-funded nonprofit agency, following a change in state law which made all housing authorities independent of municipalities.

> *We are excited to reopen the center, and grateful to HUD for their assistance in making it happen.*

The Inkster Housing Commission is governed by a five-member board of commissioners appointed by the mayor to 5-year staggered terms.

The mission is to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing for lower-income persons and administer two HUD programs, Public Housing, and the Section 8 Housing Voucher Choice Program (HCVP). The programs provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The HCVP Program provides rental assistance/subsidies and 751 Section 8 Vouchers for eligible families living in private housing. Currently, the Inkster Housing Commission provides housing and/or housing assistance to nearly 3,000 persons of whom approximately 1,500 are children under the age of 18.

Park concert set next week

The second concert in the Romulus Sound in Downtown series will take place from 7 until 9:30 p.m. June 25 at Romulus Historical Park.

The concert series is presented by the Romulus Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and will include family activities, vendors, concessions and refreshments. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic basket, a blanket or chairs to experience the live music.

The Ava James Band will perform rock and country favorites on June 25.

Mob Opera is scheduled to perform classic rock on July 9 and Infinity & Beyond will perform a Journey tribute on July 23. D'Tour is scheduled for Aug. 13 performing soul and funk favorites while Tequila Mockingbirds will perform songs of the 60s to the present during the final concert set for Aug. 27.

The concerts are free and open to the public and will take place rain or shine, except in the case of lightening.

For more information, contact the Romulus DDA at (734) 942-75-7545.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, July 1, 2021 for the following:

PROVISION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Proposal may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 6/17/2021

CN2245 - 0603721 2.5 x 2.044

SYNOPSIS
June 10, 2021 ¡V SPECIAL MEETING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: Tuesday, June 10, 2021
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 44405 Six Mile Road

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Abbo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mark Abbo, Supervisor; Roger Lundberg, Clerk; Jason Rhines, Treasurer; Scott Frush, Trustee; Cynthia Jankowski, Trustee; Christopher Roosen, Trustee

ABSENT: Mindy Herrmann, Trustee

Study Session:

1. **Home Owner Association Informational Event**
   - Presenters Included:
     - Mark Abbo, Supervisor
     - Roger Lundberg, Clerk
     - Jason Rhines, Treasurer
     - Paul Tennies, Police Chief
     - Brent Siegel, Fire Chief
     - Bob Belair, Public Services Director
     - Mark Gasche, Parks & Recreation Director
2. **Brief Public Comments:** Residents had a discussion with the Board of Trustees and Northville Township Directors regarding the community.
3. **ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m. A draft of the meeting minutes will be available on June 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Abbo, Supervisor
Roger Lundberg, Clerk

NT0139 - 061721 2.5 x 4.421

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 28, 2021, at 6 o'clock pm., at 36540 Grant Street., Romulus, Michigan and electronically through You Tube; link is at https://www.romulusk12.org/departments/business-finance. The Board of Education of Romulus Community School District will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2021-2022 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2021-2022 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2021-2022 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 36540 Grant Street, Romulus, Michigan (and/or online at: https://www.romulusk12.org/departments/business-finance.)

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Ursula Wester, Secretary, Romulus Community Schools

CITY OF ROMULUS - Board of Zoning Appeals
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
July 7, 2021, 7:00 pm

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus Board of Zoning of Appeals will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, July 7, 2021** via the Zoom Meeting application pursuant to Public Act 254 of 2020 and the Resolution Declaring a Local State of Emergency, adopted by City Council on 03/29/2021, Resolution No. 21-093 or at Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road for the purpose of considering the following:

1. **BZA-2021-007; Cindy Beregsasy - 9575 Cogswell** requesting a variance from Section 3.05(a)(2) to install a split rail fence in the front yard along Tyler Road (Parcel ID #80-069-99-0043-004).
2. **BZA-2021-008; Marlene Kardys - 10180 Ozga** requesting a variance to expand an existing nonconforming front yard setback from 18' to 10' to accommodate the addition of a front porch (Parcel ID #80-072-99-0029-000).
3. **BZA-2021-009; Todd Gilliland - 37090 Porter** requesting a variance from Section 3.04 (a)(3)b. to replace the existing garage with a 1,389- sq. ft. garage where only 750 sq. ft. is allowed (Parcel ID #80-078-12-0036-300).
4. **BZA-2021-010; Second Samuel Transport - 37311 - 37385 Goddard** requesting a use variance to allow an expediting and delivery service in the CBD-3 District since it is not a permitted use (Parcel ID# 80-078-15-0028-000).
5. **BZA-2021-011; The Outdoor Group - 12835 S. Huron River Dr.** requesting a variance from Section 13.03(b)(3) to install a privacy fence in the required front yard of the landscape contractor's establishment (Parcel ID #80-079-99-0027-701).
6. **TEMP-2021-001; Deranged Haunted Attraction - 35560 Goddard** requesting temporary use approval for an outdoor haunted attraction with a walking trail and temporary structure from 9/17/21 through 11/1/21 (Parcel ID #80-068-01-0027-002).

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to effectively participate in the meeting should contact the Carol Maise, City Planner at 734-955-4530 or send an email to planning@romulusgov.com by 8:00 a.m. the day of the meeting to request assistance. Closed Captions will be provided upon request.
Ellen Craig-Bragg, CMC, City Clerk
Publish: June 17, 2021

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CANTON

Residents take trash complaints to trustees

Julie Brown
Special Writer

Sam Caramagno, of GFL (Green For Life) trash pickup, faced intensive questioning at the June 8 Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting.

He was questioned both by residents, including Jasmine Lee, and by trustees over trash pickup problems in Canton Township. In addition, Canton residents complained that they haven't had their phone calls to GFL returned in a timely manner.

Caramagno said that Memorial Day and the Christmas season yield the largest amounts of trash to be collected each year.

"We're working hard at getting back on track," he said.

Resident Jasmine Lee outlined the issues she has experienced with GFL in a letter to township Treasurer Dian Slavens and to township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak.

"We are having a lot of issues," she said. Another resident asked during the meeting if plastics are incinerated in Canton to which there was no reply. He also encouraged composting of food scraps to reduce garbage amounts.

Caramagno noted the recent Memorial Day holiday as well as GFL staffing issues have caused some situations. He said GFL wages have increased by as much as $4 an hour, and added that the heavy call volume to the service center is "at least on the downswing."

Lee and another resident both used the chat comments at the virtual meeting to suggest a review of the GFL contract and at least consider seeking another provider. Trustee Steven Sneideman noted other communities, some served by GFL, also have trash collection issues. He said that he has seen that situation in a northern Michigan community.

> *Canton residents complained that they haven't had their phone calls to GFL returned in a timely manner.*

In other business, trustees unanimously denied an appeal of a man who sought an ice cream vendor license. He had a speeding ticket in Westland in a school zone, as well as Canton police incidents in 2014 and 2016.

A Canton Police Department sergeant spoke at the virtual meeting regarding the appeal and trustees expressed concerns about the 2016 incident of the vendor applicant taking photos of an unclothed male youth.

The vendor applicant was represented by his family as he doesn't speak English.

Canton LIVE concert series begins tomorrow

The Thursday Night LIVE concert series in Canton begins tonight, July 17, with a performance by Lookin Back, a Bob Segar tribute band.

The free concert series, sponsored by Canton Community Financial, will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. every Thursday through Aug. 19 in the Heritage Park Amphitheater, located behind the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

There will be no concert July 1. Musicians are scheduled to perform on stage from 7 until 8:30 p.m.

Concert-goers can enjoy a weekly dose of fresh air with family and friends, as well as a variety of local restaurant vendors; a Beer and Wine Garden sponsored by Maraschino's Pub, with 100 percent of sales going to Second Chance At Life - a local non-profit group that helps Michigan families with medical transplant costs. In addition, Coldstone Creamery will be on-site selling treats. New this year, three to four artisan vendors will also be on-site each week selling a variety of items, such as jewelry, handmade soaps, jams, and other items. Visitors can also visit the Canton Leisure Services tent for a fun craft. Throughout the concert series, strolling entertainers will also be available offering face painting and balloon twisting.

> *We're thrilled to be able to bring back this tradition of music in Canton's Heritage Park.*

"We're thrilled to be able to bring back this tradition of music in Canton's Heritage Park that has been a summer staple for over the last 20 years," said Recreation Specialist Laura Mortier. "So many area residents have already let us know just how excited they are to be able to enjoy these outdoor concerts and see the Canton community safely come back together again."

These events are free for all ages and feature family-friendly music. No pre-registration is required, although Canton will continue to follow all Michigan Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for safety protocols and capacity limits. Audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or folding chairs for optimal enjoyment on the amphitheater lawn in scenic Heritage Park.

Performers include: June 17, Lookin Back - Bob Segar tribute; June 24, Air Margaritaville - Jimmy Buffet tribute; July 8, The Oneders - the world's best one hit wonders; July 15, Kari Holmes - country favorites; July 22, The Third Degree - rock hits; July 29, JOVI - Bon Jovi tribute; Aug. 5, Wag the Dog - rock, pop, Motown and current hits; Aug. 12, Downriver Dan - rock and blues and on Aug.19, Circle of Sound Band - hits from today and yesterday.

All concerts are weather dependent, with updates available online at www.facebook.com/cantonfun or by contacting the Summit on the Park front desk at (734) 394-5460.

Junior Park Pro summer program is now under way

Area youngsters can become official Canton Junior Park Pros this summer with customized pins acknowledging their status.

"Canton parks are great places to explore and create great memories for all ages, but especially for children," said Laura Mortier, Canton Recreation Specialist. "We developed this program to encourage families to tour all our local parks, including some that they may never have visited before, but especially to have fun and earn a special keepsake while doing it."

Participants are encouraged to explore neighborhood parks located in Canton, through Aug. 31, to earn a customized 2-inch pin for each of the following locations visited: Barchester Park, located at 43021 Barchester Road; Flodin Park, located at 43399 Saltz Road between Morton Taylor and Sheldon Roads; Freedom Park, located at 44705 Palmer Road on the southwest corner of Sheldon and Palmer; Griffin Park, located on Sheldon Road between Cherry Hill and Saltz Roads; Heritage Park, located on Heritage Park Drive, west of Canton Center and south of Cherry Hill; Independence Park, located at 1898 Denton Road on the southwest corner of Denton and Proctor; Kopper Park, located at 7648 Shaw Lane on the north side of Koppernick Road, east of Haggerty; Preservation Park, located at 500 N. Ridge Road; Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway and Victory Park, located at 46555 W. Michigan Ave.

Becoming a Junior Park Pro is as easy as one, two, three, Mortier said. First, visit a Canton park, take a picture and then email the photo, along with the participant's address to laura.mortier@canton-mi.org to earn a pin. All ages are welcome to participate in this free park program.

Visit just one park to become a Canton Junior Park Master; visit all parks to become an official Canton Junior Park Pro. Customized Canton Park pins will be mailed to participants who have emailed fun photos to laura.mortier@canton-mi.org along with their addresses. After five visits and submissions, Junior Park Masters will receive a Canton Lanyard to store their collection. Visit all 10 parks and receive Junior Park Pro status and earn a certificate and special commemorative pin.

For more information on becoming a Junior Park Pro, visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

To subscribe to The Eagle visit www.associatednewspapers.net

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 06/17/21

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Fire at historic barn is ruled 'accidental'

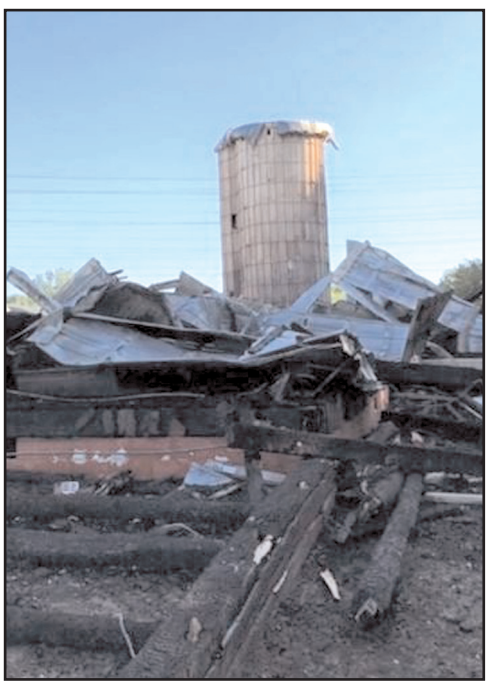
An effort by a pre-teen and a teen to produce a social media post resulted in the total destruction of the historic Cady-Boyer Barn in Canton Township.

Investigators from both the Canton Township Police and Fire Department have determined that the cause of the 5 p.m. May 30 fire which destroyed the structure and severely damaged the adjacent silo was caused by a combination of the careless use of ground fireworks, specifically colored smoke bombs, and the burning of paper as part of the creation of a social media post by the minors.

In an update last Tuesday, officials said the social media post was supposed to capture images of burning cardboard and smoke bombs, but instead caused the destruction of the barn, originally built before the Civil War by David Cady, one of the first township supervisors. It was moved to the site at Preservation Park and reconstructed piece by piece by Amish craftsmen in 2006, funded by a donation from local businessman Bob Boyer.

The barn served as a museum and community gathering venue and was the site of the Farmers Market every Sunday and last month, a new pavilion was opened at the site.

Canton Township Police Services Director Chad Baugh said that the investigation into the blaze pinpointed two individuals, a preteen and teen. He said the families of the youths wee cooperating with law enforcement and that any punishment will include an educational, fire prevention component.



Fire Services Director Chris Stoecklein said the cause of the fire has been determined to have been accidental. Fire Marshal John Oltman said the barn was not insulated and that oxygen flowing through the slats and cracks of the structure fed the blaze. There were no injuries reported in the fire, officials said.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA
July 08, 2021

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals **THURSDAY, July 08, 2021 at 7:00 PM.** The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188.

7:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Jim Cisek, Vicki Welty, Craig Engel, Greg Greco, John Badeen.
Alternate: Gregory Demopoulos

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes:
June 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

General Calendar:

1. Applicant Kevin Deters with Metro Detroit Sign, property address 44444 Ford Rd. located on the north side of Ford Road between Sheldon and Canton Center N. Roads, Zoning C-2 Central Business District Overlay. Appealing Article 6A.06 Non-Conforming Signs; 6A.11 #20 Signs Prohibited in all Districts; 6A.15 Ground Signs Permitted in all Commercial and Industrial Districts of the Zoning Ordinance. Parcel ID 039-99-0026-705 (Building)

2. Applicants Jon & Noreen Watson, for property address 3970 Herbey, located on the West side of Herbey between Geddes and Palmer, Zoning R-1. Appealing Article 26.02 Schedule of Regulations Agricultural and Residential Districts of the Zoning Ordinance. Parcel ID 133-02-0066-002 (Building)

Written comments need to be submitted prior to 4:00 PM on the date of the hearing. All written comments must be sent to the Charter Township of Canton. Clerk's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, Phone 734-394-5120.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services to attend participate at the meeting/hearing should contact Kerreen Conley, Human Resources Manager, at 734-394-5260.
Reasonable accommodations can be made with advance notice.
A complete copy of the Access to Public Meetings Policy is available at www.canton-mi.org

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Belleville - Sumpter

Widow demands appointment to treasurer's term

Sumpter Township Deputy Treasurer Toni Clark, the widow of recently deceased Treasurer James Clark, has demanded the board of trustees appoint her to the remainder of his elected term, claiming the seat is her "legal right."

Clark sent an email to Township Supervisor Tim Bowman, the other members of township board of trustees and township attorney Rob Young on June 11, four days after her husband's death, demanding the appointment. James Clark died June 7.

In her email, Clark stated that she hoped, "I still have a job with the township." She claimed that she spoke with Young about her "options" and criticized him for not confirming her erroneous claim to the remainder of her deceased husband's term.

In the email she stated, "I have a legal right as deputy to take the seat as the treasurer. This has been the right for spouses for several years."

Mr. Clark is the fourth township official to die in office in the past six years. Trustee William Hamm died in 2015; Treasurer Alan Bates died in 2016 and Clerk Clarence Hoffman died in 2017.

Young explained that there is "absolutely no authority in Michigan law that any survivor inherits or has a right to the office of a deceased relative or spouse."

> *"There is absolutely no authority in Michigan law that any survivor inherits or has a right to the office of a deceased relative or spouse.*

Young added there is no prohibition against naming a spouse to an unexpired term of office, but there is no law that requires the board of trustees to name Clark to the office.

"Until the board appoints a new treasurer, she will continue as the deputy treasurer," he said. "Obviously, we need someone in that office, we cannot have a void there. When a new treasurer is named, that person will name a deputy," he said.

In her email, however, Clark claimed that Young should have explained to her that appointment to her husband's elected term was her "right."

"He told me nothing except asked me what I wanted instead of what I had a right to. He should have spelled my right out to me. If he didn't want to tell me, he should have showed me in writing. If any of you knew this you should have told me. I have caused none of you harm. I have done my job to the best of my ability with the information provided to me," she claimed in the email.

Clark concluded her message by requesting a special board meeting to confirm her "position as Treasurer of Sumpter Township. I am requesting this is to be done by Monday. The people voted Jim Clark as treasurer and myself as his deputy."

Despite her claims, voters did not elect Toni Clark as deputy treasurer, and her name or the position of deputy treasurer did not appear on the ballot. She was appointed as deputy treasurer by her husband following his election and that appointment confirmed by the members of the board of trustees.

(See related story, page 1.)

Belleville to host tri-community Lake Fest celebration

The first-ever Belleville Lake Fest is set for June 25, 26 and 27.

Following months of quarantining and social restrictions, the Belleville Lake communities of Belleville and Van Buren and Sumpter townships will celebrate summer with a festival on and around 8-mile long Belleville Lake. The festival, led by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC), and in partnership with the Belleville Yacht Club and Service Group, will be an all-outdoor celebration heavily centered on downtown Belleville with events in Van Buren Township. The festival will feature a COVID-safe lineup of events, live music, quality vendors and other entertainment tailored for all ages, officials said.

Belleville Lake was created by Thomas Edison and Henry Ford and is the largest recreational lake in all of Wayne County. The purpose of the Belleville Lake Fest is to call attention to the unique beauty and history of the lake, organizers said in a prepared statement.

> *"The Belleville Lake Fest marks a sorely-needed return to normalcy that our community is greatly looking forward to.*

The projected Belleville Lake Fest schedule currently includes a Bring Your Own Kayak Scavenger Hunt sponsored by the Belleville Rotary Club which will conclude June 25.

Opening ceremonies for the event will include a Bar Crawl on Friday June 25 presented by A Design Line along with movies in Van Buren Park; food trucks; Jack Demmer Ford Live Music Stage; Door-to Door with Diedre Live Music Stage and a kick-off party sponsored by Team Designs and Edward Jones.

On Saturday, June 26, there will be a juried artisan market sponsored by Autokiniton; food trucks, live entertainment at the Jack Demmer Ford Live Music Stage and Door-to-Door with Diedre Live Music Stage; a 5K community run sponsored by the Van Buren Education Foundation; Dragon Boat practice presented by Pacesetter; a vintage car show sponsored by Garden Fantasy on Main and Crafted Modern; a Kidzone presented by Genisys Credit Union; a gong show; Belleville Bass unveiling and an evening boat parade.

"The Lake Fest, like the Harvest Fest and Winter Fest before it, has the real potential to be a wonderful, family friendly, community building event," said Deb Green, president of the Rotary Club of Belleville, "The Rotary will be participating with a booth selling Duck Race tickets and information on wastewater management, and Trinity Episcopal Church will have a booth selling their famous strawberry pies," she said.

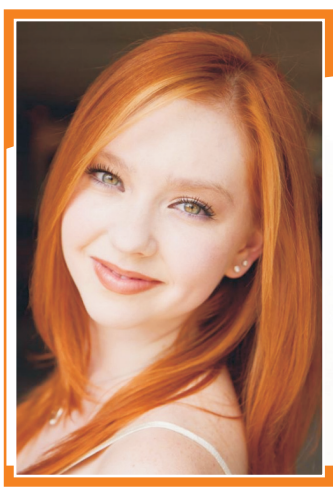
"The Belleville Lake Fest marks a sorely-needed return to normalcy that our community is greatly looking forward to. The organizers are stressing high-quality events and vendors, while building in the ability to spread out the all-outdoor Lake Fest. In the event that another quarantine is mandated, then proper social distancing and mask-wearing will ideally permit the show to go on without cancellation," a chamber of commerce representative said.

"We are very excited to have Lake Fest in our community," said Kevin McNamara, Van Buren Township supervisor, "For so long having events felt so far away and now we have the opportunity to do something really great for our citizens and neighbors."

"The festival is going to provide us with our first taste of "normal" in a very long time and I can't wait," said Angelica Renaud, owner of A Design Line in Belleville.

"Lake Fest is a great way to show off our growing Main Street and our small town charm while possibly luring prospective enterprises," she added.

For more information and to view the schedule of events visit www.bellevillelakefest.com and follow Belleville Lake Fest on Instagram and Facebook.



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WAYNE - WESTLAND

Westland OK's $70 million balanced budget

Members of the Westland City Council last week approved a $70 million balanced budget proposal for fiscal year 2021-22. The budget adds approximately $42,000 to the General Fund unassigned balance, preserving a "rainy day" fund balance at approximately $6.5 million.

Highlights of proposed budget include an overall taxable value increase of 3.30 percent, a provision to continue the city match for 13 federally funded SAFER grant firefighters, funding for an additional police officer, an addition of a full-time diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) director as well as funding to research converting the vacant Marshall Middle School into a community recreation center. The budget also includes funding for the creation of the first dog park and Pickle Ball Courts in the city.

An additional payment of $500,000 above costs in earmarked to lower the unfunded retiree healthcare (OPEB) liability in the city while an additional $150,000 has also been allocated to offer cash incentives to retirees to discontinue the city healthcare coverage, which will reduce costs long-term.

> *The city's finance team has worked very hard on this year's budget proposal.*

The budget allocates planned infrastructure expenditures of $4.2 million for major and local roads throughout the city in 26 neighborhoods which includes 70 major and local roads.

The budget also includes approximately $4.37 million to fund planned water and sewer capital projects in six neighborhoods and 37 roads throughout the 611 miles of water and sewer systems. Provisions were also made for an additional $1.2 million in capital improvements, including a new fire rescue vehicle; three new police patrol cars; a new electric community police vehicle; various DPS vehicles including a new sewer vactor truck, along with technology upgrades, bike lanes and sidewalk repairs.

"The city's finance team has worked very hard on this year's budget proposal," commented Mayor William Wild.

"This proposed conservative budget allows for continued improvements to the city's neighborhood infrastructure, supports public safety and makes significant progress towards lowering unfunded pension and retiree healthcare obligation and honoring the city's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion."

39 Steps presented by Inspire Theatre

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and the result will be The 39 Steps, a fast-paced farce packed with nonstop laughs, 150 characters, an onstage plane crash, handcuffs, missing fingers, and some good old-fashioned romance.

Inspire Theatre is returning to in-person performances with an outdoor presentation of John Buchan's adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's film, All 29 scenes are played on a single-set stage and all of the characters are played by a four-plus person cast. Michael Whitcher of Westland plays the lead, Richard Hannay, while Sara Overwater of Livonia fills the parts of the three beautiful women - Anabella, Pamela, and Margaret. The other two cast members, John Thiede of Romulus and Dave Zolotarchuk of Ypsilanti, are affectionately known as "the clowns". The clowns transform into a wide variety of characters. Thiede also has the assignment of several gender-bending roles. The 'plus', or fifth, cast member is a creative scene setter known as the Stage Meister - played by Gary Burton of Westland.

Inspire Theatre has constructed an outdoor stage directly behind the theatre in the rear parking area and will use this area for the show and future performances. Already slated is an outdoor recital of YPY School of Performing Arts in August. Audiences should bring a comfortable chair and sunscreen for matinees. Parking will be at Warren Road Church, next to theater. Performances are planned for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 18, 19, 25, and 26 and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 19, 20, 26, and 27.

Tickets are available at inspiretheatre.ticketleap.com or by calling the theater at (734) 751-7057. Inspire Theatre is located at 33455 Warren Road in Westland.

Volunteer effort

The City of Wayne and the Wayne Parks and Trails Committee joined a large group of volunteers who braved the high temperatures to help with the first of two Attwood Park clean-ups last week. Several of the group members stop to pose for a photo, above, while many were unable to stay for the entire day-long effort. Organizers thanked the volunteers and the workers from the Wayne Department of Public Works. A second clean-up at the park will be scheduled soon, organizers said, explaining that the youngsters in attendance were outstanding workers. "We should all help when our community needs us. You can count on me to be here whenever you need me. I can't wait to tell my friends about volunteering," one of the youngest volunteers told organizers.

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Northville - Plymouth

Michigan Philharmonic plans outdoor concerts

The return of live music to the community is nearly here with the long-awaited return of the Michigan Philharmonic orchestra to the stage for a pair of outdoor summer performances.

The celebration of live music includes two family-oriented performances featuring a patriotic salute to America as well as a selection of both classical and pop favorites and several movie themes. The first show will take place beginning at 7 p.m. June 26 at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth with a second performance planned for 7 p.m. Saturday, July 10 in Kensington Metropark.

The Plymouth show, "An American Salute," features an array of patriotic-themed pieces including the "Star-Spangled Banner," George Gershwin's "Strike Up the Band," as well as a Duke Ellington arrangement, "Colonel Bogey March," an armed forces, "Stars and Stripes Forever," highlights from the movie "Rocky" and Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

"A Summer Celebration," is planned for the Maple Beach area in Kensington Metropark, featuring a number of selections from the Kellogg Park performances as well as music from "Back to the Future," and "Black Panther."

"This past year and a half robbed our community of the chance to share live music together," said Philharmonic Executive Director Beth Stewart. "Now we're thrilled to be back live in the community and invite everyone to share the joyous sounds of live music being performed."

The Philharmonic will begin the 76th season this fall with a "Take2Celebration," offering eight performances between October of 2021 and May of 2022.

These live performances begin with a "Blockbuster Birthday Bash" in October and will feature two world premieres, a unique mandolin composer, a famed jazz guitarist along with a steelpan soloist, a night of traditional holiday pops at the historic Penn Theatre and much more.

Summer performance rain dates will be Sunday, June 26 for the Kellogg Park performance and Sunday, July 11 for the Kensington concert.

Downtown Northville hosting Arts and Acts festival

After a one-year hiatus, the 2021 Arts and Acts Festival, presented by the Northville Art House, will return this weekend with three art fairs--Art in the Sun, Maker's Mart and Young Artist Juried Art Fair—as well as live solo and international performances at the new location along West Cady Street in downtown Northville.

Visitors will enjoy fine art, crafts, entertainment, food, and family-friendly activities such as the annual Short on Words: A Poetry and Short Story Event and Northville Art House Chalk Festival. This year, dog owners can show off their pet's artistry in the all new Paws with Applause Northville Dog Show and Virtual Photo Contest. For festival information and updates, visit www.northvillearthouse.org/artsandacts/ and @ArtsAndActsFestival on Facebook.

The free festival will take place from 4 until 8 p.m. June 18, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. June 19, and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. June 20. Venues include West Cady Street, Northville Art House, and Old Village School and Northville District Library parking lots

> *The Arts and Acts Festival will follow all current COVID-19 State of Michigan and CDC guidelines...*

The Arts and Acts Festival will follow all current COVID-19 State of Michigan and CDC guidelines with face coverings recommended for all unvaccinated visitors, organizers said. Visitors are asked to keep a safe social distance from others, avoid standing in crowded areas, and wash their hands frequently. Hand washing stations and sanitizer will be available throughout the festival.

The Art in the Sun Juried Art Fair will take place at Old Village School and Northville District Library parking lots. Art in the Sun showcases contemporary art by fine artists from Michigan and around the country competing for monetary awards based on original artwork and booth presentation.

Maker's Mart of Northville will take place on West Cady Street between Wing Street and the Old Village parking lot entrance.

Maker's Mart showcases handicraft work, unique creations, and gifts by crafters from Michigan around the country.

Young Artist Juried Art Fair is planned for the Northville Art House and Northville Art House parking lot and will showcase young artists in grades 2 - 12 from Northville and Metro Detroit who sell original artwork and reproductions.

Garden

FROM PAGE 1

love of gardening seems to have been passed on to the younger generation who love visiting the Neil's garden for family gatherings. Of course, the couple did install a zip line for the youngsters to allow them to fly over the entire garden which proved an irresistible attraction.

The couple will join four other spectacular home gardens on the Northville Garden Club 27th Annual Garden Walk.

The tour this year will take place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, and will feature five private gardens including the Neil's with a bonus "Mini Walk" featuring six patio gardens. Advance tickets are now on sale and are priced at $12. Tickets can be purchased at Gardenviews, 117 E. Main or online at cgcnv.org.

The ticket price the day of the event is $15 and tickets will be sold at Northville Town Square 150 E. Main across from the downtown clock. The event will also feature garden artisans and live music by Zachary Kreuz at Town Square. For more information, call (734) 788-9935.

Proceeds from the Garden Walk support local and national gardening organizations, civic beautification, and Northville High School scholarships.

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